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CLASSIFICATION

TO: Chief of Foreign Division II  
Attention: [ ]  
FROM: Chief of Station, Vienna  
SUBJECT: General Operational Matters in Austria  
specific - Karl von WINCKLER

DATE: 12 October 1950

1. Attached is a translation of an original police document giving extracts from Commercial Registry and police files covering the "Ostmarkreichisches Kontor", a Karl von WINCKLER enterprise in Graz, and other persons connected with it. The report was obtained from Grasper.

2. Karl von WINCKLER is the principal figure in the CIC intelligence net Fort Worth and in the Austrian intelligence picture in general. The information should, therefore, probably be carded in Central Registry. The details of this report were not known to the CIC agents handling WINCKLER. [ ] is placing a copy in the D/G-2 file on Fort Worth.

2-Wash. Atts.  
2-Vien. Atts.  
2-Sals. files Atts.

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

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CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO. 51-28A  
MAY 1949

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5 September 1950

Subject: State Police Investigation of "Oesterr.-Kontor" G.m.b.H.  
Graz, Opernring 15.

1. The firm "Oesterr.-Kontor" G.m.b.H. was founded on  
13 November 1945 by the following persons:

Dr. Karl (von) Winckler, businessman in Schladming  
Trude (von) Winckler, wife of Karl Winckler  
Hans Trude (von) Winckler, office employee, Schladming  
Dr. Otto Kraft, businessman in Graz  
Dr. Franz Pichler, industrialist in Fuggern/Enns  
Herta Strobl, office employee, Fuggern/Enns  
Dr. ERIK Wintersberger, businessman in Koeflach  
Hans Gessole, industrialist and vice-president of  
the Bundeswirtschaftskammer, resident of Salzburg

2. On 17 January 1946, the firm was recorded as export-import  
and transit firm in the Graz trade registry. The firm was founded  
with the intention of interesting important foreign business circles  
in trade with Austria and it was planned for certain foreign businessmen  
who made credits available to the firm to become partners (Gesellschafter)  
of the firm later on. The following foreign business agents are connected  
with the firm:

Mr. John Caffery, Bern, a representative of Ambros Bank,  
London. Mr. Caffery (or has Caffery) was formerly a British diplomat  
and holds the rank of colonel in the British army. He is very interested  
in the economic reconstruction of Austria and has already joined  
the "Oesterr.-Kontor" as a partner.

Pedro Canelloupolo, Athens, partner in the Greek pyrite  
concern Canelloupolo.

Julien Kraehling, a Paris lawyer and well-known figure  
in the French Resistance.

Oxyda AG, a well-known Swiss trading firm.

3. The firm was registered on the strength of a license  
held by Otto Kraft (see para 1, above) who at first took an active  
part in running the firm. In view of his Nazi past, he was persuaded to  
resign from the post of Geschaeftsfuehrer on 1 October 1946, and  
Wolfgang Boesch, a director of Schwechater Braeu, took his place.  
Kraft allegedly has no longer any influence on the firm, which operates,  
however, still on the basis of Kraft's trade license.

6-6-2-2886

4. As an additional partner, Walter Koenig joined the firm later on; he owns a lumber trading firm and sawing mill in St. Kathrein a. Lamming.

5. The following background information is submitted on the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraphs:

W. K. L. C.

a. Dr. Karl von Winckler, born on 10 December 1912, businessman in Schladming, Dachsteinstrasse 140. He held a nazi party function in Schladming already prior to 1938.

b. Gertrude Winckler, born on 18 May 1917, wife of Karl Winckler, was a member of the NS Frauenschaft 1936-38 and also a member of the ANST (Arbeitsgemeinschaft nationalsozialistischer Studenten). According to a statement by Karl Winckler, his wife was a member of the NSDAP.

c. Gertrude Winckler, daughter of the above Gertrude Winckler; birth date unknown. No record of nazi activity.

d. Dr. Otto Kraft, born on 26 August 1901, businessman residing in Graz, Koerbergasse 1 (office: Opernring 15), member of the NSDAP since 1931, of the SA since 1931, of the HSKK since 1938. On 18 December 1947 he was sentenced by a Vienna People's Court for violation of para 6 of the War Crimes Law, to one year in prison.

e. Dr. Franz Fischier, industrialist in Pruggern/Enns; further data unknown. He left the firm "Oesterr.-Kontor" some time ago.

f. Miss Merta Ekholt, born in Vienna, teacher, residing in Pruggern/Enns. She sold her share in the "Oesterr.-Kontor". She joined the NSDAP in 1936 and held various party functions. In 1947 she was charged with violation of paras 8,10 of the Denazification Law (Verbotsgesetz).

g. Dr. Erik Wintersberger, born on 10 September 1907, businessman, residing at Graz, Ruskertgasse 4. Police files contain no record of nazi activity on his part. He was however interned by the British in the Weissenstein camp from where he was released in March 1947.

6-6-2-2886

h. Hugo ~~Geselle~~ (Dr Gesell), industrialist and vice-president of the Bundeswirtschaftskammer. No further information available.

i. Wolfgang Boesch, director (Vorstandsmitglied) of the Schwechater Bräu, no further information available. Police files list one Wolfgang Boesch, born on 4 March 1896, residing in Graz, Elisabethinergasse 2, as former NSDAP member but it is not definitely known whether this Boesch is identical with the Boesch associated with the "Oesterr. Kontor".

j. Walter Koenig, born on 22 December 1889 in Berlin, Austrian citizen since 1949, residing at Graz, Grillparzerstrasse 27. Police files list him as a NSDAP member and holder of a 1938 nazi decoration. Walter Koenig, then a German citizen, resided in Austria already prior to 1938. He left for Germany in 1936 but returned to Austria after the German occupation. In Austria he subsequently acquired a lumber trading firm and ~~xxxxx~~ sawing mill in St. Kathrein a. Lamming which had been Jewish property. In 1946 the prosecutor at Graz preferred charges against him in this matter, but in a trial of the Graz People's Court in January 1949, he was acquitted.

6. No further information could be procured on the foreigners associated with the "Oesterr. Kontor".

7. Further investigation of the "Oesterr. Kontor" revealed that the firm transacted numerous foreign trade ~~xxxx~~ deals recently and therefore does not appear to be a mere cover for other activities.

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